(ii) The "Focus Africa" programme shall aim to focus at Sub-Saharan African Region with added emphasis on the seven major trading partners (Nigeria, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ghana) of the region.

(iii) The programme shall aim to focus on the following major product groups for enhancing India's exports to the Sub-Saharan African Region:

— Cotton yarn, fabrics and other textile items;

— Drugs and Pharmaceuticals;

— Machinery and Instruments;

— Transport equipment; and

— Telecom and Information Technology.

(iv) India's exports to Sub-Saharan African Region are envisaged to be enhanced through integrated efforts of Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Indian Missions and Institutions such as EXIM bank, ECGC etc.

Restriction on Import of Second Hand Machines

3666. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of second hand jute machines for jute mills imported during the last six months;

(b) the number of those which are imported from China;

(c) whether there is any provisions in the present EXIM policy to restrict imports of second hand machines;

(d) in what manner the age of the second hand machines is evaluated; and

(e) what is the number of indigenous jute machine manufacturing units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Data on import of second hand machines is not maintained. However, as informed by the custom authority one second hand jute mill machinery worth US $ 74420 was imported from China in the year 2001-2002.

(c) Import of more than 10 years old machineries is restricted w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(d) Age of machines is determined from the date of manufacture, which should be available on the machine itself as imprinted by machine manufacturers. In case of non-availability of year of manufacture on the machines, concerned Chartered Engineers evaluation regarding age of machines is considered by the importing country.

(e) As per available information, 12 jute mill machinery manufacturers are engaged in manufacture of jute mill machinery. However, since July, 1991 such machinery manufacturers are not required to be registered in the office of the Jute Commissioner.

Removal of Sectoral Caps

3667. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make a greater dent on attracting foreign investments;

(b) if so, whether Government are toying with the idea of removing sectoral caps in all areas except the one in place on security or environment consideration;

(c) whether the high powered Steering Committee on foreign investments chaired by Planning Commission Member has made strong recommendation to this effect;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the issue; and